18

MINUTES

OF THE

SESSION OF 1888

OF THE

SUNFLOWER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH,

TUNICA COUNTY, MISS..

COMMENCING AUGUST 31, 1888.

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MINUTES.

FIRST DAY—MORNING SESSION.

The Sunflower Baptist Association, according to previous agreement, met with Harmony Baptist Church, Tunica county, at 11 A. M., Friday before the first Lord's day in September, 1888.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder J. W. Collins, from 1 Peter 2:17. After services the Association adjourned to meet at 2:30 P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

After devotional exercises, the Association was called to order by the former Clerk, Elder E. D. Hustler. The Sunflower Association proceeded to organize by electing Elder J. W. Collins Moderator, *pro. tem.*, owing to the sickness and absence of our former Moderator, W. L. Slack. The Moderator appointed the Clerk to read the letters from the churches.

Sunflower Church.—Letter and messengers: Brethren J. W. Collins, J. B. Mackey, T. S. Shuford, and Sisters M. M. Rillebrew and L. E. Bobo.

Mound Bayou Church.—Letter and messengers: Brethren S. H. Shell, W. E. Howe, J. L. McGee and A. A. Jackson.

Refuge Church.—Letter and messenger: Brother W. H. Halcomb.

Oak Ridge Church.—Letter and messengers: Brethren Alfred Moore, Henry Moore, Wm. Dempsey, Jr., and John Sparks.

First Church Bolivar County.—Letter and messengers: Brethren S. Jones and F. S. Crutchfield.

Friars Point Church.—Letter and messengers: Brethren W. L. Slack, W. A. Quinn, W. B. Hill and —— Muller.

New Hope Church.—Letter and messengers: Brethren James Weeks and S. S. Slaton.

Harmony Church.—Letter and messengers: Brethren E. D. Hustler, J. W. Lake, W. H. Martin, H. Reddin and J. V. Shull.

On motion, the Association went into the selection of permanent officers, which resulted in Elder J. W. Collins being chosen Moderator, and Elder E. D. Hustler, Clerk and Treasurer.

On motion, visiting brethren were invited to seats with us, whereupon Elders E. E. King and A. Taylor were received as Correspondents from the Deer Creek Association; and Elder L. Ball, Correspondent from the State Convention Board; and the hand of fellowship given them by the Moderator.

It being moved and adopted to receive ladies as messengers to

this Association, now and hereafter, a lively discussion ensued, which resulted in the motion being carried unanimously.

Petitionary letters were now called for, when Clarksdale Church was received into fellowship by letter and delegates, Brethren J. G. Montgomery and J. F. Jenkins.

Bethel Church was also received in fellowship by letter and delegates, Brethren J. E. Blake, W. A. Waits, M. L. Ming, J. J. Ferguson and J. R. Patton. After which the Moderator extended the hand of fellowship.

On motion, the Moderator appointed the following committees:

On Devotional Exercises.—E. D. Hustler, J. W. Lake and W. A. Waits.

On Missions.—E. E. King, S. H. Shell and H. Reddin.

On Sunday-Schools.—W. A. Waits and J. W. Lake.

On Publications.—A. Taylor, W. H. Martin and J. V. Shull.

On Temperance.—B. B. Milam and W. H. Halcomb.

On Spiritual Condition of the Churches.—E. D. Hustler and M. L. Ming.

On Ministerial Education and Mississippi College.—L. Bell and J. E. Jenkins.

The Committee on Devotional Exercises reported Elder A. Taylor to preach at night: and Elder E. E. King to preach to-morrow at 11 A. M.

On motion, it was agreed to meet to-morrow from 8 to 12 M., and from 2 to 5 P. M. After devotional exercises, the Association adjourned to meet to-morrow at 8 A. M.

SECOND DAY—MORNING SESSION.

The Association met at half past 8 A. M., in pursuance to adjournment and, after devotional exercises, the roll of delegates was called, and Minutes of Friday were read and adopted. Under head of correspondence, Brethren E. D. Hustler, J. W. Collins, J. W. Lake J. B. Shull agreed to go as correspondents to Coldwater Association, which convenes at Byhalia, Thursday before the third Lord's day in October. Brethren B. B. Milam, J. W. Collins, E. D. Hustler, J. V. Shull, W. A. Waits and J. F. Jenkins agreed to go as correspondents to Deer Creek Association, which convenes at Indianola, Thursday before the first Lord's day in October. Elders J. W. Collins, B. B. Milam, W. L. Slack and Sister L. E. Bobo agreed to go as messengers to the State Convention, which convenes Thursday before the fourth Lord's day in July, 1889.

Reports of Committees called for.

Reports of Publications was read, and after some interesting remarks was adopted.

ON PUBLICATIONS.

Your Committee on Publications believe that the world is both cursed and blessed with books. We believe it is our duty to condemn the reading of a great deal of reading matter now in circulation. We believe it is our duty to see, as far as possible, to the kind of literature our peoble read. We recommend *The Southern Baptist Record*; to keep us posted about the work in our own state. It is published at Meridian, Miss. Also, *The Baptist*, published at Memphis, Tenn., and *The Foreign Mission Journal*, published at Richmond, Va.

There are other Baptist papers, too many to mention in this report that should be read. For all Sunday-School literature, and all religious books we should send to the American Baptist Publication Society, 66 1-2 Whitehall Street, Atlanta, Ga.

Respectfully Submitted.

Committee. { A. TAYLOR.
J. V. SHULL.
W. H. MARTIN.

Report on Missions was read, and after some earnest speeches was adopted.

ON MISSIONS.

The Savior said, "The field is the world," and the great commission, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," This is an order for us to carry the gospel, in person or by proxy, wherever our brother man may be found.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Our Baptist people are the pioneers in Modern Missions to foreign nations. In 1784, the Nottingham England Association began this work, and in 1792 organized the first Foreign Mission Society. Our American churches organized for this work in 1814, and we, in the South, separately organized for it in 1845. We now have missionarries in six foreign countries.

In China.—We have nine Missionaries, three of whom went out from our State, viz. E. Z. Simmons and wife, and Mrs. Janie Lowry Sanford. We have seven hundred and twenty-seven native converts, forty of whom were baptized last year.

In Africa.—We have only three Missionaries and their wives, and one hundred and forty-nine members, while the people without the Gospel number twenty-five million. One of the three men, W. J. David, giving the gospel to Africa is a Mississippian, as is also his wife. They will soon be joined by W. T. Lumley, who was a pastor here in the valley two years since.

In Italy.—We have thirteen churches, two church houses, three hundred and fifty members, two missionaries and twelve native preachers. John H. Eager, one of Mississippi's gifted sons, is preaching the gospel for us in that sunny land.

In Brazil.—Our work is prospering, but there Romanism is strong and persecution is bitter. We have preaching in five cities. Last year forty-nine converts were baptized and we now have two hundred and ten members. One of the most efficient men we have in this field is Jack Taylor, a native of Rankin county, in this state; and another one of our laborers there, Mrs. Emma Fox Puthuff, is of North Mississippi.

In Mexico.—The Lord has greatly blessed our work. We began our mission there in 1880, and now have eight churches and five hundred members. The work is among the best class of people. W. D. Powell, our modern missionary hero there, grew to manhood and was once a pastor here in the valley. He will soon be joined by our brother J. G. Chastain.

Cuba is the latest field entered by our missionaries, but is one of the most interesting and promising. The Lord has most wonderfully blessed the labors of A. J. Diaz, the "Apostle to Cuba." Two Christian woman went from one of our churches on the sea coast, before the appearing of Diaz, and began to tell the story of Jesus and his love to that priest-ridden people. Thus the Lord has given us a special interest in all these foreign fields. By special arrangement Cuba is under the Home Mission Board. Dr. H. A. Tupper, Richmond, Va., is our Secretary for Foreign Missions. His Board collected last year $86,400.00, of which Mississippi paid $5,202.86.

The Lord is enlarging the work; twelve new men have been accepted as missionaries, and next year the Board will need $100,000.00 to meet the expenses.

HOME MISSIONS.

The report of the Home Mission Board to the late session of the Southern Baptist Convention was a very gratifying exhibit of the condition and progress of the work committed to its care. From that report we learn that during the Conventional year 287 Missionaries were employed. The laborers reported as follows:

Churches and stations,	1,114
Weeks of labor	10,739
Sermons preached	33,868
Prayer meetings,	7,390
Baptisms,	4,857
Received by letter,	2,639
Total additions,	8,496
Sunday-schools organized,	431
Teachers and pupils,	17,240
Religious visits,	47,610
Churches constituted,	306
Houses of worship built,	64
Cost of houses of worship,	$54,068
Pages of tracts distributed,	442,352
Bibles and testaments,	1,779
Total Sunday-school publications,	4,754,000

These Missionaries labored in fourteen States and Territories and in the Island of Cuba.

The report of the Treasurer of the Home Board shows the receipts to have been $178,953.32. Of this sum $48,023.17 was received directly into the treasury of the Board, Mississippi being credited with $924. Bodies co-operating with the Home Board in joint mission work raised and expended upon their fields of labor $41,154.15. These bodies also raised and expended in houses of worship built on mission fields $54,068, while the receipts from the Sunday-school publications of the Board reached $34,478. In Mississippi the Board had three Missionaries, and expended upon them $625.

STATE MISSIONS.

There have been this year sixty-four missionaries under the Convention Board. Some of them have labored all the year, some only for a few months and some only for a portion of their time. The Board has co-operated with other bodies in various ways so as to secure the best results.

STATISTICAL EXHIBIT.

Days of actual service,	4,823.
Number of miles traveled,	48,198.
" " stations,	214.
Sermons preached,	2,740.
Prayer meetings attended,	1,392.
Families visited,	7,218.
Baptized in connection with the work,	814.
Received by letter,	322.
Restored to fellowship,	52.
Total additions,	1,188.
Churches organized,	14.
Sunday-schools organized,	39.
Officers, teachers and scholars in same,	1,189.
Sunday-school addresses delivered,	134.
Pages of tracts distributed,	40,326.
Money collected for personal services,	$1,699.75.
" " " State missions,	1,429.60.
" " " other purposes,	6,685.49.
Houses of worship built,	15.
" " " repaired,	7.

The total receipts of the Board for the year for State missions is $9,128.45, of which $370 is paid to pastors in this Association. The Board is ready to help this Association in any way it may designate.

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS.

Very little missionary work has been done in our bounds. Bro. E. D. Hustler was employed as missionary two and one-half months last fall, since which time nothing has been done except by the voluntory efforts of our pastors. We are financially unable to supply our

spiritual destitution, therefore your committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That we earnestly solicit our Convention Board to help us supply our destitution in any way the Board may deem advisable.

Committee, { E. E. King. S. H. Shell.

The preaching service, upon motion, was postponded indefinitely. After singing and prayer, the Association adjourned till 2 o'clock P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association convened pursuant to adjournment, with devotional exercises.

The report on Sunday-schools was then read, and after an animated discussion was adopted.

ON SUNDAY-SCHOOLS.

Your Committee on Sunday-schools submit the following: The majority of our church members seem to be totally indifferent about Sunday-school. They are either blind as to its importance and efficiency in planting and establishing the truth in the hearts of the children in their various communities, or they are willing to rest under the sin of omission of duty. There is no more efficient means by which we may train up children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord than in the Sunday-school. The Lord commands us to train them up, in the way they should go. And this command implies the kind of Sunday-school we should attend and influence our children to attend, such, and such alone, as will teach the pure word of God. Your Committee would urge on every individual member of our church to aid in establishing and perpetuating Sunday-schools in those churches where they have none. W. A. Waits, Chairman.

J. W. Lake.

The Committee on Ministerial Education and Mississippi College made their report through their Chairman, Elder L. Ball, which after interesting speeches was adopted.

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION AND MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE.

The subject of education has been so generally discussed, and its necessity so uniformly admitted, that an educated ministry would be a necessity, as a rule. As the people generally become more cultivated, so must the ministry become more enlightened. As a teacher and leader in Divine things, the preacher must be able to know and rightly divide the truth. The design of education is not to make preachers, but to aid them in the study and systematic presentation of the gospel. Ministers are required to preach the faith, but to contend earnestly for it. The faith is being constantly attacked by the wise in science, infidels and skeptics. It is not enough to have zeal for God, but zeal according to knowledge.

Mississippi College is not a theological school in name, but much so practically. The effort is not to take up young men and make preachers of them, but to receive such as come well recommended by their churches. These undergo a rigid examination by an examining board in the college. Sometimes they are excluded from the benefits of ministerial students. Ministerial students do not pay any tuition unless they, or their parents are able to do so. The training and example given to them send them forth on a foundation on which they may build a successful work for God, thoroughly identified with every interest of the church. By their fruits ye shall know them. Look through the state and behold the men sent forth. Look in the different states, and away to foreign fields, and the story is partly told.

The various professions are filled with men with success and honor. Send your sons and ministerial gifts to the college—have them educated. You can thus help the college and do a great work for the cause. Last session there were 35 ministerial students in attendance. The college is doing well, and is a great agency in behalf of the various benevolent works in the State.

Respectfully Submitted,

L. BALL, Chairman.

Report on Temperance was read, and after some remarks, adopted by a unanimous standing vote.

ON TEMPERANCE.

Your Committee on Temperance beg leave to report:

That we consider this an important subject. A subject that has justly engaged the brightest intellects of our land. We regard intemperance a monster evil, that must be crushed; and we recommend that our efforts be directed against it as individuals—not as church actions.

Respectfully Submitted,

B. B. MILAM, Chairman.

The report was amended by the following resolution:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this Association, that it is unchristain conduct for a chnrch member to sign a whisky petition, vote for the legalized sale of intoxicants, as a beverage, or in any way give countenance or encouragement to this iniquitous traffic; and the churches should enforce discipline against members guilty of lending their influence to the liquor traffic.

It being necessary for our Moderator to leave us, Bro. Ball was elected Moderator, *pro tem.*

Report of Committee on Spiritual condition of the churches was read, and after some remarks, adopted.

SPIRITUAL CONDITION OF THE CHURCHES.

Your Committee on Spiritual Condition of the Churches would

report: That they know little of the condition of the churches, except what has been communicated by letters. Bro. Milam reports Mound Bayou as in a state of revival, and a great interest at Hushpuckena.

Bro. Slack reports future prospects good in his field. Bro. Collins preaches half his time to the Sunflower Church. This church has enjoyed a revival recently. The writer has been preaching at Harmony, Lula, Coahomia and New Hope. With the assistance of Bro. F. M. Wells, we had a good meeting at the latter place. A missionary is very much needed within the bounds of this Association. Other denominations are fast gaining ground in important places. Let us be up and doing.

Respectfully Submitted,

E. D. HUSTLER, Chairman.

Motion made and adopted to appoint a New Mission Board composed of two members from each church. Said Board to meet at Lyon to organize, the fifth Lord's day in September.

The Association agreed to meet with Bethel Church, Bolivar county, on Thursday before the second Lord's day in October, 1889. Elder J. W. Collins to preach the Introductory Sermon.

RESOLUTION.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be tendered to our dear friends and brethren of Harmony Church, and vicinity, for their kind and friendly welcome and support of the Messengers and visitors.

The Committee on Devotional Exercises reported Elder L. Ball to preach at night, and also on Sunday at 11 o'clock.

Minutes of to-day read and adopted. The Association having concluded the business of the meeting, gave to each other the parting hand and adjourned to meet according to previous agreement with Bethel Church, near Hushpuckena, on the L. N. O. & T. R. R., on Thursday before the second Lord's day in October, 1889.

J. W. COLLINS, Moderator.

E. D. HUSTLER, Clerk.

REPORT OF TREASURER.

Received for Minutes,	$18.00
Received for Associational Missions,	30.80
Received for Mexican Missions,	10.00
Total,	58.80
Paid for Minutes and expenses,	18.00
Balance on hand for Missions,	40.80

E. D. HUSTLER, Treasurer.

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. This Association shall be called the SUNFLOWER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Art. 2. It shall be composed of persons who have been duly elected delegates by the respective churches belonging to this union.

Art. 3. The delegates representing the different churches shall at the opening of the Association, present the letters specifying their appointment, and also showing the number baptized, received by letter, dismissed, excluded, restored and dead, during the year, together with the whole number in fellowship.

Art. 4. Every church belonging to this body shall be entitled to five delegates until they number one hundred members, and then one for each fifty above that number.

Art. 5. Churches of this union failing to represent themselves at one Association, will be expected to state the reason of their failure at the next, and if any church fail for three successive meetings, the Association may consider such a church as dropped from its number, or shall have power to send a committee to inquire into its state, or proceed as the Association may deem most advisable.

Art. 6. New churches may be admitted into this union by signifying their wish by letter and delegates, provided they be deemed orthodox, and are willing to walk in fellowship with us.

Art. 7. The Association shall have a Moderator and Clerk, who shall be chosen at each annual meeting so soon as letters from the churches are read, and members' names enrolled: provided, however, that nothing in this article be construed as to prohibit churches petitioning for union with us from voting by their delegates for Moderator and Clerk.

Art. 8. This Association shall have no power to adopt rules that shall at any time infringe upon the independence and rights of churches; it shall, however, be at liberty to advise churches belonging to it, or it may withdraw from such churches as are known to walk disorderly.

Art. 9. This Association shall have a fund for its expenses, and the church shall be at liberty to send up such funds as they may think proper, either for foreign or domestic missions, for the Bible or any other benevolent institution, and the Association appoint one or more to take charge of the same, and forward them as they may be designated, and report to the next Association.

Art. 10. Any church of this union having a difficulty that she cannot settle may call help from other churches, or may present the case to this body for advice; such cases must be presented in the letter of correspondence, stating the reasons why it has not, or could not be decided by the church.

Art. 11. If any church shall have a difficulty with a sister church, we recommend said church to take the gospel steps as directed in Matthew 18, and no difficulty will be entertained by the Association until such steps be taken.

Art. 12. When churches of this union have members supposed to possess ministerial gifts, we recommend them to call to their aid, from two or more churches, the ministers, and such other members as the churches may deem most suitable to examine the individuals, and if thought advisable, to authorize such member or members to

preach the gospel, which shall be reported to the Association and entered on the Minutes.

Art. 13. Any church having a gift she deems worthy of ordination, shall call a presbytery of ministers from sister churches to officiate in the work; and all the presbyteries in the ordination of ministers and deacons, or in constituting churches, shall be governed by the Abstract of Principles of this Association.

Art. 14. The Association may correspond by letter and delegates, with the Baptist Convention of this State, and with such Associations as she may deem most conductive to the general interests of Zion.

Art. 15. The minutes of the Association shall be read, and corrected, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the session rises. No Association shall adjourn, unless in extraordinary cases, until it has finished all its business.

RULES OF DECORUM.

Article 1. The Association shall be opened with prayer.

Art. 2. The Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by the members present by private ballot.

Art. 3. The Moderator shall be considered the judge of order but any member not satisfied with his decision may appeal, provided the appeal be made on the same day, but at no subsequent time.

Art. 4. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as other members, but not to vote unless his vote is necessary to decide the question. If he rise to speak, he shall call on some brother to take the chair.

Art. 5. All questions brought before the Association shall be introduced by motion, and, if seconded, shall be open for discussion, unless withdrawn by the mover or his second. When a subject has been taken up and a reasonable time allowed for discussion, the Moderator shall take the question by yeas and nays, and if a call for a division be made, it shall be decided by the members rising.

Art. 6. Any member wishing to speak shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator. Only one member shall speak at the same time, and while speaking shall not be interrupted, unless he depart from the subject, or make personal reflections.

Art. 7. No person shall speak more than once upon any subject, until all who wish to speak have had an opportunity, nor more than twice upon any subject without permission.

Art. 8. Every subject introduced for discussion shall be first decided before another shall be offered, unless it shall be laid over by motion, with the consent of the mover and Association.

Art. 9. The association shall in all cases be governed by a majority of the members present, (except in the reception of churches, then a unanimous vote shall be required. "But in no case shall one member or church prevent the reception of a church without a sufficient cause is shown, which shall be determined by a majority.")

Art. 10. The names of members shall be called whenever the Association shall direct, and the absentees marked. Any member wishing to retire shall obtain permission of the Moderator.

Art. 11. The appellation of brother shall be used by members in addressing each other.

Art. 12. Any member violating these rules shall be subject to reproval by the Moderator, but only on the day the breach shall have been committed.

Art. 13. Amendment or alterations may be made to these rules when a majority may deem it necessary.

ABSTRACTS OF FAITH.

I. OF THE SCRIPTURES.

We believe the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of Heavenly instruction. That it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without mixture of error, for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; therefore, is, and shall remain, to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct and opinions should be tried.

II. OF THE TRUE GOD.

There is one, and only one true and living God whose name is Jehovah—the maker and supreme ruler of Heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness; worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; revealed under the personal and relative distinction of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit; equil an every divine perfection, and executing distinction but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

III. OF THE FALL OF MAN.

That man was created in a state of holiness, under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression, fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are sinners—not by constraint, by choice—being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, wholly given to the gratification of the world, of Satan and of their own sinful passions, and therefore under the condemnation of eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

IV. THE WAY OF SALVATION.

That the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who took upon Himself our nature, yet, without sin, honored the law by His personal obedience, and made an atonement for our sins by His death; being risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in Heaven, and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathy with divine perfection, is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and all sufficient Savior.

V. OF JUSTIFICATION.

That the great gospel blessing, which Christ, of His fulness, bestows upon such as believe in Him, is justification; that justification consists in the pardon of sin and the promise of eternal life, on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through his own redemption, and righteousness; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

VI. OF THE FREENESS OF SALVATION.

That the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial

and obedient faith, and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, except his own voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ, which refusal will subject him to an aggravated condemnation.

VII. OF GRACE IN REGENERATION.

That, in order to be saved, we must be regenerated or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind, and is effected in a nanner above our comprehension or calculation, by the power of the Holy Spirit, so as to secure a voluntary obedience to the gospel, and that its proper evidence is found in the holy fruit which we bring forth to the glory of God.

VIII. OF GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE.

The election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely wise, holy and unchanged; that it utterly excludes boasting, and prompts humility, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of His free mercy; that it encourages means in the highest degree; that it is ascertained, by its effects, in all who believe the gospel is the foundation of Christian assurance, and that to ascertain it, with regard to ourselves, demands and deserves our utmost diligence.

IX. OF THE PERSEVANCE OF SAINTS.

That such are real believers as endure to the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from mere professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare, and they are kept, by the power of God, through faith unto salvation.

X. HARMONY OF THE LAW AND GOSPEL.

That the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government; that it is holy, just and good, and that the inability, which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen man, to fulfil its precepts, arises entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them, through a Mediator, to unfeigned obedience to the holy law is one great end of his gospel and the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

XI. OF A GOSPEL CHURCH.

That a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers; associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by His law, and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them; that its only proper officers are Bishops, or Pastors and Deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles of Timothy and Titus.

XII. OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER.

That Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem; our faith in a crucified, buried and risen Savior with its purifying power; that it is a pre-requisite to the privilege of the church relation, and to the Lord's Supper, in which

the members of the church, by the use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by a solemn self-examination.

XIII. OF THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH.

That the first day of the week is the Lord's day, or Christian Sabbath, and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and recreations by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public, and by a preparatian for that rest which remaineth to the people of God.

XIV. OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT.

That civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good of humanity, and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except in things opposed to the will of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the Kings of the earth.

XV. OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND WICKED.

That there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

XVI. OF THE WORLD TO COME.

That the end of the world is approaching; that at the last day Christ will descend from Heaven and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy, and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of man, Heaven or Hell, on principles of righteousness.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

W. L. Slack, Friais Point, Miss.
B. B. Milam, Belleview, Miss.
E. D. Hustler, Lyon, Miss.
J. W. Collins, Lyon, Miss.

LICENTIATES.

T. R. Overly, Belleview, Miss.
W. H. Hartley, Jonestown, Miss.

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	MESSENGERS.	Days of Meeting	Received by Letter	Received by Baptism	Restored	Dismissed by Letter	Excluded	Died	Total	For Minutes	Associational Missions	Mexican Missions	CLERKS.
Friar's Point	W L Slack	W L Slack,* W A Quinn,* W B Hill,* — Mullen*								24	$2 00	$5 15		J J Stark, Friar's Point
Oak Ridge	" "	Alfred Moore,* Henry Moore,* Jno Sparks,* Wm Dempsey, Jr*		2	1		2			31	2 50	2 50		Alfred Moore
1st Baptist	" "	F S Crutchfield,* S Jones	4							7	1 75			[rksdale
Clarksdale	" "	J F Jenkins,* J T Montgomery *	2	3		6	1	2		15	1 00			Dr J G Montgomery, Cla-
Sunflower	J W Collins	J W Collins, T S Shurford,* J B Yackey,* M M Killebrew,* L E Bobo*	1-3	2	1					29	2 50	23 15	10 00	W H Stacy, Lyon
New Hope	E D Hustler	James Weeks,* S S Slaton,*	3	3	4			1		13	1 00			James Weeks, Dublin
Harmony	" "	E D Hustler, J W Lake, W N Martin, H Reddin, J V Shull	4	5	2		3		1	20	1 25			G V Lake, Busby
Refuge	B B Milam	W H Halcomb	2						1	13	2 00			W H Halcomb, Riverton
Mound Bayou	" "	S H Shell, W E Howe,* J L McGee,* A A Jackson*	1	3	9	1	3		1	22	2 00			S H Shell; Belleview
Bethel	" "	W A Waits, M L Wing, J E Blake, J J Ferguson, J R Patton	3	7	6					17	2 00			M L Ming, Hushpuckena
				26	23	1	8	2	5	191	18 00	30 80	10 00	

* Absent.

MINUTES

OF THE

Session of 1890,

OF THE

Sunflower

Baptist Association

HELD WITH

Priar's Point Baptist Church, Priar's Point, Miss.,

COMMENCING SEPT. 5, 1890.

OFFICERS.

REV. W. L. SLACK, - - - - MODERATOR.

T. S. SHUFORD, - - SECRETARY AND TREASURER.

Meridian, Miss.:
DAILY NEWS PRINT,
1890.

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MINUTES.

FIRST DAY—Morning Session.

The Sunflower Association, according to previous agreement, met with Friars' Point Baptist Church, Coahoma County, Miss., at 11 a. m., Friday before the first Lord's Day in September, 1890, this being the fifth day.

On account of there being so few present, the time was spent in devotional service, prayer and song, conducted by Elder B. B. Milam.

Adjourned to meet at 2:30 p. m.

Afternoon Session—2:30 p. m.

After devotional exercises the Association was called to order by Elder W. L. Slack.

The Sunflower Association proceeded to organize, Elder W. L. Slack presiding.

Upon motion of Elder J. W. Collins, Brother J. M. Christman was chosen Clerk, *pro tem.*

Upon motion of Brother J. W. Collins, Moderator appointed Brethren T. S. Shuford and W. T. Embry Reading Clerks to read the letters from the churches.

Letters were read and delegates enrolled.

Sunflower Church—Letter and messengers, Brethren J. W. Collins, pastor, J. B. Mackey, T. S. Shuford.

Oak Ridge Church—Letter and messengers, Brethren J. W. Manpin, T. J. Smith, G. W. Spradling and Sister Elvia Manpin.

Bethel Church—Letter and messengers, Brethren M. L. Ming and W. T. Embry.

Mound Bayou Church—Letter and messengers, Brethren J. B. Griffin, S. H. Shull and Elder B. B. Milam.

The First Church, Bolivar county—Letter and messengers, J. L. Hurley and T. S. Crutchfield.

Refuge Church—Letter and messengers, no messengers present. By letter only.

Friars' Point Church—Letter and messengers, Brethren W. B. Hill, Dr. J. J. Slack and Sisters G. Elmore, Maud Suddoth, Jane Snow.

Harmony Church—Letter and messengers, J. B. Shull, J. W. Lake, W. H. Martin.

On motion, the Association then proceeded to permanent organization.

Elder W. L. Slack was chosen Moderator, and T. S. Shuford Clerk and Treasurer.

Moderator then called for petitionary letters, whereupon a letter from the Baptist Church at Lula, Coahoma county, Miss., also a letter from from the Baptist Church at Belen, Quitman, Miss., were presented and read.

On motion, Lula Baptist Church was received as a member of this body, and the right hand of fellowship extended by the Moderator to the pastor, J. W. Collins, he being the only one present to represent the church.

On motion, the Baptist Church at Belen, Quitman County, was received as a member of this body, and the right hand of fellowship extended by the Moderator to the messengers of same.

Lula Baptist Church—Letter and messenger, Elder J. W. Collins, missionary pastor.

Belen Church—Letter and messengers, Brethren J. M. Christman and D. M. Herring.

Moderator then invited visiting brethren, if any pres-

ent, to seats with us, to aid in our deliberations. None present.

On motion, the Moderator appointed the following committees. During the making up of the committees, thirty minutes was spent in devotional exercises, conducted by Elder J. W. Collins. Then the Moderator announced the committees as appointed:

On Devotional Exercises—Messengers of the Friars' Point Church.

On Missions—Elders J. W. Collins, B. B. Milam, Brethren J. M. Christman, James Moore, Sisters Elvia Manpin and Maud Suddoth.

On Sunday Schools—Brethren T. S. Shuford, W. T. Embry, J. V. Shull, J. W. Manpin.

On Publications—Brethren J. M. Christman, T. J. Smith, D. M. Herring, J. B. Mackey.

On Temperance—Brethren J. B. Griffin, S. F. Crutchfield, W. T. Embry, J. W. Manpin, M. L. Ming, G. W. Spradling.

On Spiritual Condition of the Churches—Elder J. W. Collins and Brethren James Moore, T. J. Smith, J. V. Shell, J. B. Mackey, T. S. Shuford.

On Ministerial Education and Mississippi College—Brethren W. T. Embry, B. B. Milam, J. M. Christman, J. V. Shull, T. S. Shuford.

On motion, it was agreed that the time for the meeting of the Association be as follows: Meet at 8:30 A. M., adjourn 12:30 P. M.; meet 2:30 P. M., adjourn 5.30 P. M.

On motion, Association adjourned until 8 A. M. to-morrow morning.

Moderator announced that the Introductory Sermon would be preached at 7:30 P. M., by Elder J. W. Collins, this having been the agreement at the morning service, owing to the scarcity of delegates present at that time.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder J. W.

Collins, from Gal: 6th, 2: "Bear ye one another's burdens' and so fulfill the law of Christ," at 7:30 P. M. and was listened to by an attentive and appreciative audience

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SECOND DAY—MORNING SESSION.

The Association met at 8:30 A. M., in pursuance to adjournment.

Moderator read 27th Psalm.

Song, "Shall we gather at the river," was sung.

Prayer by Brother J. M. Christman.

Minutes of Friday were read and adopted.

The roll of delegates was called, noting present and absent.

Volunteers to corresponding bodies were called for by Moderator, there seeming to be none to volunteer.

On motion, Elder B. B. Milam was chosen to attend the Coldwater Association. He agreed to go if he could. The time of meeting, Friday before the third Lord's Day in October, at Arkabutler.

Dear Creek Association—Elder W. L. Slack.

Time and place of meeting.

Baptist State Convention—Convening at Natchez. Time: Elder J. W. Collins.

At this juncture a petitionary letter from Friendship Church was read, and upon motion, received as a member of this body, and the right hand of fellowship extended by the Moderator to the messenger, Brother T. J. Persell. (Location not mentioned in letter). Clerk.

Brother B. B. Milam being the pastor of some weak churches that he thought were near enough together to consolidate, asked the opinion of the Association. Whereupon, the Moderator asked Elder J. W. Collins to give us a talk upon the subject of consolidation of weak churches, when

accessible, which he did, to the satisfaction of all present, of course favoring it.

Reports of Committees called for.

Report on Sunday Schools was read and discussed at some length by Elder J. W. Collins, Brother D. M. Herring, Elder W. L. Slack, (Elder J. W. Collins in the chair) and Elder B. B. Milam. [See Appendix A for report.] Report adopted.

Elders E. D. Hustler and J. C. Ferguson, visiting brethren, having just arrived were invited to seats with us and to take part in the deliberations.

Report on Publications was read and discussed by Brethren J. M. Christman, J. C. Ferguson, J. W. Collins, B. B Milam. "Baptist Record" and "Baptist and Reflector" recommended in speeches, and some subscriptions to the Record were taken up by J. W. Collins. Report, on motion, was adopted. [See Appendix B for report.]

Report on Temperance was read and discussed at some length by B. B. Milam, J. M. Christman and J. W. Collins. Report, on motion, adopted. [See Appendix C for report.]

* * * * * * *

Report on Spiritual Condition of the Churches was read and ably discussed by Elders J. W. Collins and B. B. Milam.

Pending discussion the time for adjournment came and the Moderator so announced.

On motion the Association adjourned to meet at 2:30 P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Association re-assembled. Sung the beautiful hymn, "Pass me not O gentle Saviour."

Prayer by Elder J. C. Ferguson.

The discussion of the report on Spiritual Condition of the Churches was continued by W. T. Embry, D. B. Mi-

lam. Report, on motion, was adopted. [See Appendix D for report.]

Report on Ministerial Education and Mississippi College was read. After discussion by Elders W. L. Slack and J. W. Collins, was adopted. (changed to two reports.) [See Appendix E for reports.]

At the close of the above discussion, Brother J. M. Christman proposed to make one in twenty give one dollar for the purpose of paying board of young ministers at Mississippi College, which resulted in collection to the amount of $12.30.

Report on Missions was read and ably discussed by Brethren J. W. Collins, B. B. Milam, J. C. Ferguson, in which co-operation with State Board was urged. Report, on motion, adopted. [See Appendix F. for report.]

Committee on Devotional Exercises announced that Elder W. L. Slack would preach to-night at 7:30; Elder J. W. Collins at 11 o'clock A. M., Sunday.

RESOLUTIONS.

Brother J. M. Christman offered the following resolutions:

Resolved, That a collection for missions be taken after sermon at 11 o'clock to-morrow.

Offered by J. W. Collins:

Resolved, That the thanks are due and are hereby tendered to the Baptist Church and citizens of Friars' Point for their kind hospitality in receiving and entertaining the delegates and members of this body.

On motion, resolution was adopted.

On motion, Association adjourned to meet after sermon at night to finish up the business of the Association.

NIGHT SESSION.

After sermon by Elder W. L. Slack, minutes of the day's work were read and approved.

Treasurer's report approved.

Resolution offered by W. L. Slack:

Resolved, That all the money over twenty dollars sent up to the Association be applied to missions.

On motion, resolution was adopted.

Resolued, That the amount now in hands of Treasurer, turned over to him by old Mission Board, be put in with the present mission funds of this Association.

Amount $6.80. Resolution adopted.

Suggested by Elder J. W. Collins that the Moderator appoint the committees to write on the different subjects to be read at the next Association, which he promised to do later and notify.

On motion, a Central Mission Board was appointed by the Moderator, whose duty it is to confer with State Board to secure aid to work up our destitution, also said board is to solicit our churches to do all they can for the same.

Board—J. W. Collins, Lyons, Miss.; T. S. Shuford, Lyons, Miss.; J. M. Christman, Jonestown.

As there was no petition for the next meeting of the Association in any of the letters, Brother T. S. Shuford, delegate from the Sunflower Church, invited the Association to meet with that church at Lyons, Miss., which invitation was, upon motion, accepted.

No appointment was made for preaching the Introductory Sermon.

On motion, Association adjourned to meet at Lyons, with the Sunflower Church, Friday before the first Lord's Day in September, 1891.

The Song, "Shall we gather at the river," was sung, and the parting hand extended. Thus ended a very harmonious and profitable meeting of the Sunflower Association.

REPORTS.

Report of work done by churches for 1889-1890. As there was no meeting of the Association last year this report is taken from the letters.

The Baptist church at Lula collected and paid to State Board toward the support of missionary pastors	$ 65 00
Sunflower Baptist church, repairs on church building, painting, etc., 1889	100 00
Paid to State Board for missions, 1889	76 00
Sabbath school purposes, 1889	24 00
Incidentals, first two quarters, 1890	24 00
To State Board for missions, 1890	$ 31 70
To Sunday school fund, 1890	16 80
To incidentals, 1890	14 00
To endowment Mississippi College, donated by T. S. S	5 00
To Elder Wesson for services in protracted meeting	37 00
Total	$329 00
Friars' Point church, church repairs, 1890	$275 00

About three churches support Sunday schools. There may be more but not reported.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Received for minutes	$ 20 00
Received for missions	13 25
Received hat collections for missions on Sunday	16 50
Received for board of young ministers at Mississippi College	12 80
Received amount turned over to treasurer from old Mission Board	6 80
Total	$ 69 35

The above amount is still on hand, but is ready for disbursement.

Statement of Clerk for the Benefit of the Churches.

Continued sickness in my family since the adjournment of the Association, and press of business, has prevented me from getting the minutes ready for print sooner. Hoping this statement will be satisfactory to all,

I am yours fraternally,

T. S. SHUFORD.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX A.—REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Your Committee on Sunday Schools submit the following:

The majority of our church members seem to be totally indifferent about Sunday schools. They are either blind as to the importance and efficiency in planting and establishing the truth in the hearts of the children in their various communities, or they are willing to rest under the sin of omission of duty.

There is no more efficient means by which we may train up children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord than in the Sunday school. The Lord commands us to train them up in the way they should go, and this command implies the kind of Sunday school we should attend and influence our children to attend. Such, and such alone, as will teach the pure word of God. Your committee would urge on every individual member of our churches to aid in establishing and perpetuating Sunday schools in all the churches where they have none.

Respectfully submitted;

T. S. SHUFORD,
Chairman.

The above report is a copy of report written by W. A. Watts in minutes of 1888.

T. S. SHUFORD.

APPENDIX B.—PUBLICATIONS.

Your committee recognizes the power of the press as an engine for good or evil. Therefore, would earnestly

urge each family of the churches composing this Association to take and *read* some of the various religious papers published by our people. Our own State paper is a standard paper, ever advocating our distinctive principles, and it merits and should have a hearty support from every Mississippi Baptist.

J. M. CHRISTMAN,
Chairman.

APPENDIX C.—TEMPERANCE.

Your Committee on Temperance beg leave to report that we regard alcoholic liquors as being one of the greatest evils of our land, and we recommend that we use all legitimate means, unitedly, to suppress its sale in our country, and especially near churches and schools. And we further regard it as an unchristian act for a member o a church to visit saloons to indulge in its pernicious practices of evil.

J. B GRIFFIN,
Chairman.

APPENDIX D.—SPIRITUAL CONDITION OF THE CHURCHES

Your committee to whom was referred the Spiritual Condition of the Churches, beg leave to submit the following:

The spiritual condition of a church can no more be seen than we can see a man's faith. Faith cannot be seen. It is known or manifested by works or fruit. Therefore, we are driven by necessity to judge the spiritual condition of the churches by their works or fruit.

There are *two* points of view from which we may judge the spiritual condition of the churches.

First—What they do for themselves.

Second—What they do for others.

1st. What a church does for itself, is for its own edification and spiritual growth. Under this head comes the support of a pastor, the maintenance of a good Sabbath

school, keeping up regular prayer meetings, seeing after the wants of the sick and poor in its local community.

From the best information your committee can get there are few churches in the bounds of this Association do what they are fully able to for the support of their pastor.

Christ, our great Teacher, said, "The laborer is worthy of his hire," Luke, 10:7. Paul said to the church at Corinth, Cor. 9:11, "If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?"

No church can grow in grace and in the knowledge of God that is too covetuous to support the preaching of the Gospel in its own midst, at least to the full extent of its ability. The plea of weakness and poverty is too often made a hiding place for covetousness. They that can supply every other desire and luxury ought to supply their families with the bread of life.

Brethren, if we want our churches to be in a good spiritual condition we must bring the tithes into the Lord's Store House.

2nd. There were but few Sabbath schools and prayer meetings reported in the letters. Therefore, we conclude but few churches in the Association have them. This is another obstacle in the way of spiritual growth.

These are the Lord's tables, at which we partake of spiritual food, for it is observed, those who feast at these tables most grow in grace most. And those who absent themselves from these tables are supposed to have no relish for spiritual food—therefore, they are spiritually lean.

Second—Doing for others. Under this head comes mission work. Our marching orders are, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."

It is a rebellious army that will not move when it receives marching orders. These orders were issued more

than eighteen hundred years ago, and if the churches do not obey, how can they be spiritual?

But very few churches reported anything done on this line, and we cannot suppose much spiritual life in a church that withholds the bread of life from those who are solely dependent on them for it.

Brethren, let us wake up from this spiritual slumber. "Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things I say."

Respectfully submitted,
J. W. Collins,
Chairman.

APPENDIX E.—MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

The education of the ministry is of Divine necessity. We have the highest authority for it. The Scriptures teach by command, saying, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth—"2 Tim. 2:15. Education cannot be obtained without study, and "study" is what the minister is commanded to do. In all business, study is necessary in order to succeed. It is said, and it is true, that the studying of God's word is limited only by the value of the soul, the length of eternity and the weight of Divine authority.

We understand that those who are sent out from Mississippi are as seed sown in good ground, bringing forth a rich harvest of fruit to the honor and glory of God.

Respectfully submitted,
W. T. Embry,
Chairman.

APPENDIX F.—MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE.

Misiissippi College is located at Clinton, Miss., and is a Baptist institution. Its purpose is to educate young men, and especially young ministers to equip them to go out into the world to preach the Gospel of Christ.

The course of study there will compare favorably with any college in the State, and under a good religious influence, we see from its last year's report, it is on rising ground. The good it is doing is great, much to the upbuilding of the cause of Christ. The influence of its work is felt in almost every nation of the earth.

We should feel greatly encouraged, seeing the good it has accomplished, and give it our aid and sympathy.

W. T. EMBRY,
Chairman.

APPENDIX G.—REPORT ON MISSIONS.

There is no work to which our churches and Associations are called, of more importance than that of missions.

In fact it is the key-note of the religion of Jesus Christ, and that Christian or that church which is not missionary in act, as well as name, can but grow lean and lifeless spiritually.

Each succeeding generation has slowly but surely improved the plans of missionary operations, and to-day the plans are so matured that we have no paid agents simply to travel and raise missions for the different fields. The principal work is done by one man in the State, who receives all monies for all of the different objects fostered by the denomination, and forwards the same to its proper place, as directed by the doners.

The Convention Board consist of fifteen carefully selected brethren from the different points of the State, and one paid Corresponding Secretary, who is the servant of the Board, and is taxed with the principal business of the State work, looking out destitutions and securing men to have them supplied.

Last Convention year the State Board employed 55 missionaries for all or part of their time, under whose ministry 957 were received into the churches, and 558 of them by experience and baptism.

Your committee would beg leave to suggest, that this Association appoint, or have appointed, a central committee or mission board, not less than *three* and not more than *five*, of discreet brethren, to look out the destitutions in the bounds of the Association, and recommend the same to the State Board, and solicit aid to supply them with preachers, and at the same time let it be the duty of this Associational Board to frequently urge the pastors and churches to take up quarterly collections for this Associational work.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. Collins,
Chairman.

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. This Association shall be called the SUNFLOWER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Art. 2. It shall be composed of persons who have been duly elected delegates by the respective churches belonging to this union.

Art. 3. The delegates representing the different churches shall, at the opening of the Association, present the letters specifying their appointment, and also showing the number baptized, received by letter, dismissed, excluded, restored and dead, during the year, together with the whole number in fellowship.

Art. 4. Every church belonging to this body will be entitled to five delegates until they number one hundred members, and then one for each fifty above that number.

Art. 5. Churches of this union failing to represent themselves at one Association, will be expected to state the reason of their failure at the next, and if any church fail for three successive meetings, the Association may consider such a church as dropped from its number, or shall have power to send a committee to inquire into its state, or proceed as the Association may deem most advisable.

Art. 6. New churches may be admitted into this union by signifying their wish by letter and delegates, provided they be deemed orthodox, and are willing to walk in fellowship with us.

Art. 7. The Association shall have a Moderator and Clerk, who shall be chosen at each annual meeting so soon as letters from the churches are read, and members' names enrolled; provided, however, that nothing in this

article be construed as to prohibit churches petitioning for union with us from voting by their delegates for Moderator and Clerk.

Art. 8. This Association shall have no power to adopt rules that shall at any time infringe upon the independence and rights of churches; it shall, however, be at liberty to advise churches belonging to it, or it may withdraw from such churches as are known to walk disorderly.

Art. 9. This Association shall have a fund for its expenses, and the churches shall be at liberty to send up such funds as they may think proper, either for foreign or domestic missions, for the Bible or any other benevolent institution, and the Association appoint one or more to take charge of the same, and forward them as they may be designated, and report to the next Association.

Art. 10. Any church of this union having a difficulty that she cannot settle may call help from other churches, or may present the case to this body for advice; such cases must be presented in the letter of correspondence, stating the reasons why it has not, or could not be decided by the church.

Art. 11. If any church shall have a difficulty with a sister church, we recommend said church to take the gospel steps as directed in Matthew 18, and no difficulty will be entertained by the Asssociation until such steps are taken.

Art. 12. When churches of this union have members supposed to possess ministerial gifts, we recommend them to call to their aid, from two or more churches, the ministers, and such other members as the churches may deem most suitable to examine the individuals, and if thought advisable, to authorize such member or members to preach the gospel, which shall be reported to the Association and entered on the minutes.

Art. 13. Any church having a gift she deems worthy

of ordination, shall call a presbytery of ministers from sister churches to officiate in the work; and all the presbyteries in the ordination of ministers and deacons, or in constituting churches, shall be governed by the Abstract of Principles of this Association.

Art. 14. The Association may correspond by letter and delegates with the Baptist Convention of this State, and with such Associations as she may deem most conductive to the general interests of Zion.

Art. 15. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the session rises. No Association shall adjourn, unless in extraordinary cases, until it has finished all its business.

RULES OF DECORUM.

Art. 1. The Association shall be opened with prayer.

Art. 2 The Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by the members present by private ballot.

Art. 3. The Moderator shall be considered the judge of order, but any member not satisfied with his decision may appeal, provided the appeal be made on the same day, but at no subsequent time.

Art. 4 The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as other members, but not to vote unless his vote is necessary to decide the question. If he rise to speak, he shall call on some brother to take the chair.

Art. 5. All questions brought before the Association shall be introduced by motion, and if seconded, shall be open for discussion, unless withdrawn by the mover or his second. When a subject has been taken up, and a reasonable time allowed for discussion, the Moderator shall take the question by yeas and nays, and if a call for a division be made it shall be decided by the members rising.

Art. 6. Any member wishing to speak shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator. Only one member shall speak at the same time, and while speaking shall not be interrupted, unless he depart from the subject, or make personal reflections.

Art. 7. No person shall speak more than once upon any subject until all who wish to speak have had an opportunity, nor more than twice upon any subject without permission.

Art. 8. Every subject introduced for discussion shall be first decided before another shall be offered, unless it shall be laid over by motion, with the consent of the mover and Association.

Art. 9. The Association shall in all cases be goverened by a majority of the members present, (except in the reception of churches, then a unanimous vote shall be required. "But in no case shall one member or church prevent the reception of a church without a sufficient cause is shown, which shall be determined by a majority.")

Art. 10. The names of members shall be called whenever the Association may direct, and the absentees marked. Any member wishing to retire shall obtain permission of the Moderator.

Art. 11. The appellation of brother shall be used by members in addressing each other.

Art. 12. Any member violating these rules shall be subject to reproval by the Moderator, but only on the day the breach shall have been committed.

Art. 13. Amendments or alterations may be made to these rules when a majority may deem it necessary.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	Days of Meeting: Sabbath	Baptism	Received by Letter.	Received by Letter.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded.	Restored.	Died.	Males.	Females.	Total Membership.	PASTORS.	POST OFFICE.	CHURCH CLERKS.	POST OFFICE.	Am't Rec. for Min'ts	For Ass. Missions.
Sunflower, at Lyons	1st-3	2	1	3				3			22	J. W. Collins	Lyons, Miss.	J. B. Mackey	Lyons	$2 50	$
Oak Ridge											24	W. L. Slack	Friars' Point, Miss	Alford Moore	Friars' Point	4 05	3 50
Bethel		4	4					1			24	G. W. Holowell		W. T. Embry	Huschpackena	1 00	2 00
Mound Bayou	1st.			2							24	B. B. Milam		S. H. Shull		2 00	
First Baptist Ch., Bolivar Co.	4th.	1	1						2	7	9	W. L. Slack	Friars' Point, Miss			1 85	
Refuge		5	10								40	H. D. White	Vicksburg, Miss	W. W. Johnson		3 00	
Friars' Point									5	20	25	W. L. Slack	Friars' Point, Miss	Dr. J. J. Slack	Friars' Point	3 30	4 05
Harmony		4		1							22	B. B. Milam		J. W. Lake		2 00	
Lula, organized August, 1889	4th.	1	19								20	J. W. Collins	Lyons, Miss.	Mrs. T. H. Van Eaton	Lula	1 50	
* Baptist Church at Belen	2nd.										19	J. W. Collins, missionary p'stor	Belen, Quitman Co	W. L. Spencer	Belen, Miss	1 50	
														Thomas Persell		1 00	
Friendship											13	B. B. Milam					
Total											242					$23 70	$9 55
																9 55	
												Total Amount for Minutes and Missions				$33 25	

* Organized August 24, 1890.

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MINUTES.

FIRST DAY—Morning Session.

The Sunflower Baptist Association met with the Baptist church at Lyon at 11 a. m., Friday before the first Lord's Day in September, this being the fourth day.

So few having arrived up to this hour, the time was spent in devotional exercises, song and prayer. The services were opened by Bro. H. J. Smith, and afterwards conducted by Elder H. A. Ferguson. "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" was sung.

Prayer by Brethren Smith, Ferguson, White, Shuford and Christman.

It being about 12 o'clock, the meeting adjourned to meet at 2.30 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION—2:30 P. M.

After devotional services, conducted by Elder J. W. Collins, prayer by Bro. P. S. Rogers.

The Association was called to order by Elder J. W. Collins, in the absence of the Moderator, W. L. Slack. Bro. J. M. Christman and H. J. Smith were appointed reading clerks, to read the letters from the churches.

Letters were read and names of delegates enrolled.

Refuge Baptist Church—Letter and messenger, Bro. W. W. Johnson.

Belen Church—Letter and messenger, Brethren J. M. Christman, H. C. Hudson, Wm. Brooks.

Oak Ridge Church—Letter and messengers, Brethren James Moore, T. J. Smith, G. W. Spradling,* Arch Spradling,* J. W. Maupin.

Baptist Church at Lyon—Letter and messengers, Brethren T. S. Shuford, J. E. Bromlit,* W. H. Stacy, J. B. Mackey,* Thos. W. White.

New Hope Church—Letter and messengers, Brethren B. B. Milam, J. H. Jeanings, James Weeks and Sister Martha Crownover.*

Baptist Church at Lula—Letter and messengers, Brethren Jessie Barbee, Sister Delila Crawford.*

First Baptist Church of Bolivar—Letter and messenger, Bro. F. S. Crutchfield.*

Bethel Church—Letter and messengers, Brethren G. W. Wise,* M. L. Ming,* W. T. Embry.

Friendship—Letter and messengers, Brethren James Cagle, Thos. Baggs and Sister Jennie Jackson.

Mound Bayou—Letter and messengers, Brethren T. R. Overby, J. B. Griffin, E. D. Hustler, J. H. Slayton,* and Sister M. T. Overby.

Harmony Church—No letter, no messengers.

Having read the letters and enrolled the delegates, the Association then proceeded to permanent organization. The following named brethren were placed in nomination for Moderator, Elders J. W. Collins and J. M. Christman. T. S. Shuford was nominated for Clerk and Treasurer. The Moderator appointed Brethren Thos. W. White and H. J. Smith, Tellers, who reported the result of election as follows:

J. M. Christman, Moderator.

T. S. Shuford, Clerk and Treasurer.

J. M. Christman then, in a short speech, thanked the body for the honor, and asked the assistance of the brethren in the discharge of his duty.

Petitionary letters were then called for, and a letter from the Baptist church at Enon, Tallahatchie County, was presented, read, and, upon motion, received as a

member of this body, and the right hand of fellowship was extended by the Moderator to the messengers, Brethren H. A. Ferguson, Wm. White, F. L. Sumner.

The Moderator appointed Committee on Devotional Exercises, Committee, Pastor and Delegates of this church.

On motion of Elder Thos. W. White, it was agreed that the time of meeting and adjourning be as follows: Meet at 9 A. M., adjourn 12 A. M.; Meet at 2 P. M., adjourn at pleasure.

On motion of Bro. Thos. W. White, it was agreed that this Association add to its list of subjects, on which reports are to be made, "Woman's Work," and that a committee be appointed to write on the above subject to be read at this meeting.

Committee as appointed by Moderator,

THOS. WHITE,
T. R. OVERBY,
E. D. HUSTLER.

On motion of T. R. Overby, visiting brethren present were invited to seats with us, and were extended the usual courtesies of the floor, whereupon the following brethren responded: Elder H. J. Smith, from Memphis Association, and Elder P. S. Rogers, representing the Ministerial Board of Education.

Reading of reports was then called for. Committees as appointed by the last Moderator, W. L. Slack.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

As appointed by W. L. Slack, since the meeting of last Association.

On Missions—Elder J. W. Collins, Chairman, Thos. W. White, T. S. Shuford.

Bro. Collins begged that this report be made to-morrow, for good reason which was granted.

On Sunday-Schools—Brethren T. S. Shuford, Chairman, J. W. Maupin.

Report was read and ably discussed by the following brethren: A. J. Smith and P. S. Rogers.

On motion, report was adopted as read. [See appendix A for report.]

The Committee on Devotional Exercises announced that Elder P. S. Rogers would preach the Introductory Sermon to-night at the usual hour for preaching.

On motion, Association adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 9 A. M.

At 7:30 o'clock the congregation assembled to hear the Introductory Sermon by Elder P. S. Rogers. Text, Matthew 9:9, "And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom; and he saith unto him, follow me, and he arose and followed him." Theme—Christ our Leader. Bro. Rogers handled his subject well and gave us a splendid sermon, which was appreciated by all present.

SECOND DAY—Morning Session.

Association reassembled at 9 A. M.

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" was sung, and the 23rd Psalm was read by Elder H. J. Smith, who also led in prayer.

The Moderator then declared the Association ready for business.

Minutes of Friday were read, and, upon motion, adopted.

Delegates from Friars Point Baptist church having arrived, the letter was read by Bro. H. J. Smith, and the delegates enrolled.

Letters and messengers, Sisters Maud Sudduth, C. J. Snow, Nonnie Cooper.

Bro. A. J. Mitchell, from Coldwater Associatin, being present, was invited to seats with us and made welcome to participate in the deliberations of this body.

Resolution, as offered by Elder H. A. Ferguson, that the Moderator appoint a Finance Committee of three, to look after the Finances of this Association, who shall report before the close of this session.

On motion, resolution was adopted:

Committee as oppointed,

T. R. OVERBY,
J. H. JENNINGS,
W. W. JOHNSON.

Resolution offered by Elder H. A. Ferguson:

Resolved, That the Moderator appoint a committee to revise the Constitution and Rules of Decorum of this Association and offer such amendments as they think proper, to be acted upon at the next meeting of this Association.

On motion, resolution was adopted, and the Moderator appointed the following brethren as committee: Elder J. W. Collins, H. A. Ferguson, Thos. W. White.

Report on Publications was called for, and was read by Bro. H. J. Smith and was discussed at length by the following brethren: J. W. Collins, Thos. W. White, H. A. Ferguson, H. J. Smith, H. J. Mitchell, recommending Kind Words Publications, Southern Baptist Record, Foreign Journal and Our Home Field.

On motion, report was adopted. [See appendix B for report.]

Report on Temperance was read and discussed by the following brethren: B. B. Milam and H. A. Ferguson.

On motion, report was adopted. [See appendix C. for report.

The Moderator then announced that it was the hour for adjournment, and, upon motion, the Associaiion adjourned to meet at 2 P. M.

Benediction by Bro. H. J. Smith.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Association reassembled at 2 P. M.

The hym, "There is a Fountain Filled With Blood," was sung.

Prayer by Elder H. J. Smith.

The Moderator then called the Association to order. Dr. J. T. Christian, Secretary of the Convention Board having just arrived, was invited to seat with us, and was made welcome.

Report on Woman's Work, was read and discussed by Elder Thos. White and J. T. Christian.

Report as read, upon motion, was adopted. [See appendix D.]

The report on Missions was made special order for to-night.

Elder H. A. Ferguson offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Moderator appoint standing committees to write upon the different subjects, to report at the next session of this body. (A list of subjects as made out by the Moderator, together with the names of committee, will be published elsewhere in these minutes.) After some discussion by Elder Thos. White, J. W. Collins and H. A. Ferguson, on motion, resolution was adopted.

Resolution offered by Elder H. A. Ferguson:

Resolved, That the next session of this Association be held with Enon Baptist church, Tallahatchie County, Miss.

Resolution as read, was, upon motion, adopted. So the next session of the Sunflower Association will be with Enon Baptist church, Tallahatchie County.

DIRECTIONS—How to get to the Association: Get off at Sumner Station, one mile north from Webb, on G. P. R. R., one mile east from Sumner on L. N. O. & T. R. R.

The report on Ministerial Education was read and discussed by the following brethren: Elder P. S. Rogers, Dr. J. T. Christian, B. B. Milam, J. W. Collins, Thos. W. White and H. A. Ferguson.

On motion, report was adopted. [See appendix E.]

Following the reading and discussion of the above report, the churches of this Association, by their representatives, pledged themselves to raise the amounts as subscribed below for Ministerial Education.

Baptist Church at Lyon	$10 00
Baptist Church at Belen	10 00
B. B. Milam for New Hope	8 00
B. B. Milam for Friendship	8 00
Mound Bayou Church	5 00
Refuge Church	8 00
Friars Point Church	10 00
Baptist Church at Lula	5 00
Ladies' Missionaay Society at Lyon	5 00
Enon Church (Paid Cash)	5 00
Enon Church (Pledged)	5 00
Oak Ridge Church	10 00
Total amount pledged	$89 00
Less cash	5 00
	$84 00

Cash subscribed by individual present:

J. M. Christman, $1.00; H. J. Mitchell, $1.00; Miss J. C. Snow, $1.00	$ 3 00
J. W. Collins, $1.00; W. W. Johnson, 50cts.; W. T. Embry, $1.00	2 50
W. H. Stacy, $1.00; Mrs. Jennie Shuford, $1.00	2 00
Mrs. Nannie Cooper, $1.00; James Moore, $1 00	2 00
T. R. Overby, $1.00; Miss Emma Taylor, 25cts.	1 25
Enon Church (amount in the above list paid cash)	5 00
Total,	$15 75

Report on duties of pastors to churches had not been prepared, consequently no report read, but Brethren J. M. Christman and H. J. Mitchell gave us some practical thoughts upon the subject.

Upon motion of J. W. Collins, the Association instructed the Clerk to pay himself out of any funds now in his hands, the amount paid by him, above what was allowed for the printing of the last minutes, which was $6.40.

Report on Mississippi College was read and discussed by the following brethren: Elder Thos. W. White and J. W. Collins.

Report after discussion, upon motion, was adopted. [See appendix F.]

Report of Associational Mission Board was read and discussed by J. W. Collins.

Report, on motion, was adopted. [See appendix G.]

Report on duties of church members to their pastors, was read and spoken to by Elders J. W. Collins and H. J. Smith.

Report as read, was adopted. [See appendix H.]

Report on Finance was read and adopted.

On motion, Association adjourned to meet at 7:30 o'clock to finish up the business of the Association.

Benediction by Elder H. A. Ferguson.

NIGHT SESSION—7:30 P. M.

Association reassembled. "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" was sung, and prayer was offered by Elder P. S. Rogers.

A statement was made by J. M. Christman, Treasurer of the Associational Board, to this effect: That all the funds that had been collected and paid to him, had been turned over to J. T. Christian, Secretary of Convention Board. Amount.....

The Moderator then called for the report on Missions, which was read and discussed by Elder J. W. Collins and J. T. Christian.

On motion, report as read, was adopted. [See appendix I.]

The Association then elected Elder Thos. W. White to represent this body in the next meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, which convenes in the city of Atlanta, Ga., Friday, May 13, 1892. H. A. Ferguson was elected alternate.

Volunteers to corresponding bodies was then asked for by the Moderator.

State Convention, which meets at Meridian, Miss., Thursday before the fourth Lord's Day of July, 1892. Elder Thos. White, H. A. Eerguson and J. W. Collins agreed to attend.

Deer Creek Association—Time of meeting, Oct. 15, 1891; place, Jones Bayou, near O'Riley, L. N. O. & T. R. R. Thos. White agreed to attend.

Yalobusha Association convenes at Grenada Oct. 9, 1891, I. C. R. R. H. A. Ferguson.

Sunflower Association (colored) convenes next year at

Clover Hill, Coahoma County, some time in August. J. W. Collins agreed to attend.

Resolution offered by Elder H. A. Ferguson:

Resolved, That the Clerk have as many copies of minutes printed as the funds in his hands will justify, and that he be allowed $10 for his services, to be paid out of any funds now in the hands of the Treasurer, not otherwise appropriated.

On motion, resolution was adopted.

Resolution offered by H. A. Ferguson:

Resolved, That this Association return thanks to the church and community of Lyon for their unbounded hospitality during the session of this body.

On motion, resolution was adopted.

Elder J. W. Collins offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the thanks are due and are hereby tendered to the Moderator and Clerk for their faithful discharge of duty during the session of this body.

On motion, resolution was adopted.

Resolution offered by H. A. Ferguson:

Resolved, That J. W. Collins be appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon at the next meeting of the Association.

On motion, resolution was adopted, and the Moderator made the appointment.

The Association having completed its business, on motion, adjourned to meet with Enon Baptist Church, Tallahatchie County, Friday before the first Lord's Day in September, A. D., 1892.

Committee on Devotional Exercises announced that Dr. J. T. Christian would preach at 11 o'clock to-morrow and at 4 P. M., and that P. S. Rogers would preach at 7:30 P. M.

Thus ended a very harmonious and pleasant session of the Sunflower Association.

After adjournment, the sweet song, "God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again," was sung, and the parting hand extended from one to the other until all had a shake.

Benediction by prayer, by H. A. Ferguson.

On Sunday we had two very fine sermons by Bro. J. T. Christian, one at 11 o'clock and one at 4 P. M. Also a sermon at 7:30 P. M. by P. S. Rogers, all of which was highly appreciated by good congregations.

At the close of the sermon at 11 o'clock, a collection for Missions was taken, amounting to $24.70.

CLERK.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX A--REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

There is no department of Christian work more important in its aims nor more encouraging in its results than Sabbath Schools.

It presents a good opportunity for church members to expand in Christian usefulness and to impress indellibly upon the minds of children the truth of the gospel. We insist that every church in this Association make an earnest effort to organize and maintain a Sabbath School for training the young in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Of course, the Bible is the most important source of instruction, but we emphasize the fact that we have a clear cut Baptist weekly paper, Kind Words. Sound and scriptural and well adapted to the instruction of the young. We urge you to subscribe for this paper and also the literature of the Sunday School Board, located at Nashville, Tenn.

Respectfully submitted,

T. S. SHUFORD, Chairman.

APPENDIX B--REPORT ON PURLICATIONS.

Your Committee finds that this word means "to make public, or the act of making public, proclamation, as the making proclamation of the Heavenly ministers." Now, there are a great many kinds of publications. The publication of books, pamphlets, etc., of even peace of pardon for the condemned; the formal publications of the last will and testament of a testator. These are publications.

Some things we do not desire published. Things that

mar our characters we are very anxious to conceal. Things that militate against the State are not published from the housetops. David did not want the death of Saul and Jonathan published in Gath, nor in the streets of Askelon; but the Phillistines had the same published in the house of their idols, because it was cheerful news. The publications that we, as Christians and Baptists, should desire most are these: Those that make for the peace and happiness of mankind and the upbuilding of the Master's Kingdom.

These should consist of Bibles, Testaments and religious literature generally. Of the latter, we have the Southern Baptist Record, published at Meridian, Miss., our State paper; Western Recorder, Louisaille, Ky., and others equally as good for the adult, and the Kind Words Series for the little ones. We also recommend the "Foreign Mission Journal" aud "Our Home Field."

It occurs to your committee, tnat as Baptists, we should each and everyone take and read our State paper, the Record.

It is sound and ever on the alert to detect and expose error, not only in our own ranks, but also ready to attack corruption when found in high places. Without it, we cannot hope to keep abreast of passing events, as they affect Baptist interests in our State. It will keep you in touch and sympathy with the great Baptist heart of the country. You may be sound, tboroughly, as to baptism, but woefully ignorant of the great and fundamental doctrines that go to make your baptism sound. Take your State paper and keep up with the procession. It is a great educator.

Permit me again to urge you to take your State paper, not only take it, but read it. It will cause you to think. Thinking Baptists make better church members. More

intelligent Christians, more in sympathy with all the great aims of the denomination, better listeners and more easily preached to.

Try your paper for one year of vital importance from a Christian standpoint is the thorough indoctrinating of our children in our peculiar doctrines. These are to take our places in a very short time in all the walks of life; and pretty soon, too soon for some of us. How very important, then, that we do our whole duty by these successors of ours.

Give them wholesome literature that their young minds may be filled with such knowledge as to aid them in combatting error in the life work. Bear in mind that this a personal duty. Think not to shrink it. Teach them to remember their Creator in the days of their youth. The Kind Words Series will greatly aid you in this pious duty, and God the Father will bless you, and your hearts will be made to rejoice in the upbuilding of the Redeemer's Kingdom. Try it.

But in selecting your publications for self and family, let me urge you, my brethren, not to neglect that greatest of all publications—The last will and testament of our Lord and Savior, in which it is proclaimed that God so loved the world that He gave his only begotton Son that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Wonderful proclamation! Publish this from the housetop and byways until there shall be peace on earth and good among all people. Then shall come to pass the saying, "O death where is thy sting, O grave where is thy victory?"

J. M. CHRISTMAN.

APPENDIX C--REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Your Committee on Temperance beg leave to report: To which the scriptures encourage temperance and do

forbid intemperance and to which we call your attention to 2 Peter 5-7. The seven graces which is a token of faith, which reads as follows: "Add to your faith, virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, temperance; and to temperance, patience; and to patience, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness, for if these things be in you, you shall be neither barren nor unfruitful." And this comes all from the ground of Temperance, and we should earnestly contend for it. Temperance is moderation in all things; the extremity is intemperance.

Respectfully submitted,

B. B. MILAM, Chm'n.
E. D. HUSTLER,
JAS. MOORE,
Committee.

APPENDIX D--REPORT ON WOMAN'S WORK.

This work is almost in its infancy in our State work. Only ten or eleven years ago the first societies were organized. To-day there are in the State 455, 94 of which are young peoples societies.

These societies raised during the last conventional year $16,139.87 for all objects. In our Association we have but two societies, one at Lyon another at Friar's Point. The society at Lyons reports since organization (five months) for State Missions $6.00; for Home Uses, $52.00, total, $58.00.

The society at Friar's Point reports $48.00 raised since organization (March 16, 1891.) These societies are a power in the church for good. "A consecrated body of women in a church organized for work, and understanding each other, having a common purpose are a great power in every way in the church."

We urge the pastors to aid the women in their efforts,

and wherever they have no society, to see that one is organized.

Sister Hillman, of Clinton, will furnish any church and individual with all the information desired, pertaining to organization, etc.

Respectfully submitted,

THOS. W. WHITE,
For Committee.

APPENDIX E--REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

The ministry is a gift to the church. It is for the church. The church is then mainly responsible for the work done by the ministry. She alone has the power to send men out to preach gospel. And to the church they look for help in securing an education. It is important that they should be educated from the character of their work.

The field of the ministry is broader than that of any other profession. They are to lead and teach men of all other professions and callings in life. From the lawyer who ponders over his text book from morn till midnight hour, to the little babe playing around mother's chair, from the banker to the poor waif upon the streets, all are to come under his care and under his instruction.

Are we doing anything to prepare them for this work? From the report of the Board of Ministerial Education, which was organized separate and independent of Convention Board two years ago, which they made last State Convention, we find there were thirty-nine young men at Mississippi College last session. We ought to have 100. We had two years ago fifty, now we have thirty-nine. Of this number thirty were assisted in whole or in part in paying their board and lodging.

The Board report they expended in this work $1,025.13 in cash. They ought to have placed in their hands three

times the above amount. Besides the above, $298.37 worth of provisions, etc., was sent in by the Woman's Missionary Societies.

We have no endowment fund to support this work. The Board is dependent upon the churches for contributions to aid in the work. We recommend:

1. That our churches seek out such young men among them as are called of God to preach, and send them to Mississippi College, and only such.

2. That our churches take up a collection as often as possible for Ministerial Education and send to the Board and that they do this early.

3. That we pray for this work; (a) that God will give us more young men; (c) for those at school; (d) and for the Board of Ministerial Education.

4. We would further recommend to our pastors that they try to give these young men work in meetings during vacation, and in order to do this, write early to the College for them.

Respectfully submitted,

THOS. W. WHITE, Chm'n. of Com.

APPENDIX F--REPORT ON MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE.

The past session has been a most prosperous one. There were 250 studens enrolled, thirty-nine of which were ministerial students. The faculty reports a very satisfactory amount of work done.

We would call your attention to some important changes that have been made:

1. The faculty has been made stronger by the addition of two men, giving us a teaching force of eight men.

2. The sessions have been shortened from forty weeks to thirty-six weeks.

3. The regular tuition fees have been dropped. A matriculation fee of $25 is charged all students.

4. Another change has to be reported, and we hope it shall be for good. Rev. W. S. Webb, who has served so long and so acceptably as president, has thought it best to resign the presidency. Rev. R. A. Venable, of Memphis, Tenn., has been elected, and has accepted the presidency of the College, and will take charge at once.

Rev. Venable is a man well qualified to fill the position, and we feel will do so to the satisfaction of all.

THE ENDOWMENT—There has been raised in cash and subscription about $63000. This is only a start. We need $100,000 as an endowment fund, and should never give up until that amount is secured.

New buildings are needed, and those we have; must be repaired. The student's rooms need furnishing. Our churches are called upon to do this. We recommend:

1. That we make sacrifices to help endow the College and repair old buildings and build new ones needed.

2. That Baptists send their boys to Mississippi College, and try to secure others for the College.

3. That we pray for the College, for its officers, for its students and especially that the Baptists of Mississippi may be guided aright in question of removal, and that each church take up a collection for the College during the coming year, and send in as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

THOS. W. WHITE.

G—REPORT OF ASSOCIATIONAL MISSION BOARD

Your Mission Board has no work to report, but it wishes to make a report to show it did not ignore its appointment. We can only report what we tried to do. We organized last fall, and decided to put a man in the field for half of his time to travel over the Association, preach to destitute please, and do general colportage work.

The chairman conferred with Bro. Christian, who

assisted us in hunting a man for the place. After a series of correspondence with four or five ministers, we failed entirely to get anyone to do the work. Some of the churches adopted the suggestions made in a circular letter and have taken up quarterly collections which can be accounted for by the treasurer, while your Board failed to get a man for the field. They still think the plans can be executed. Therefore, we recommend that a good man be put in the field for all, or half of his time, to do general missionary and colportage work.

J. W. COLLINS,
T. S. SHUFORD,
J. M. CHRISMAN,
Board.

H--REPORT ON DUTIES OF CHURCH MEMBERS TO THEIR PASTORS.

This is a subject fraught with deep interest to the prosperity of Zion. Many churches are in a cold or lukewarm state, and despair of success. May not the cause be traced to negligence, and want of co-operation with, and proper support of the pastor, instead of criticising and finding fault with the pastor. They should pray for him. Paul says: Brethren, pray for us that God would open a door of utterance to speak the ministries of Christ for which I am also in bonds, that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. They should defend his character, which is often unjustly assailed.

The Lord says touch not mine annointed and do thy prophets no harm. Many a noble pastor has been driven from the pastorate by failure of his brethren to defend him from unjust attacks on his character. They should see that he is properly remunerated for his services. They say the preacher is called and must preach; how dare they withhold from him that which is scripturally his due. Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the grain. The laborer is worthy of his hire. They that minister at the altar shall be partakers of the altar. A consecrated ministry and church membership is under the blessing of God—the hope of a lost world. Never was there greater incentive to put forth united effort for the triumph of the truth, and victories of the cross, that Christ may be all and in all.

Respectfully submitted,
J. W. COLLINS, Chairman.

1--REPORT ON MISSIONS.

Your committee on Missions beg leave to submit the following:

Having the general subject of Missions, we, perhaps, can do no better thing than to give information about the working of the different boards. The Mission work is divided into three general divi-ions, to-wit: Foreign Missions, Home Missions and State Missions.

The Foreign Mission Board controls all Foreign Missions; the Home Mission Board controls all Home Missions, and the Convention Board controls all State Missions.

The foreign fields are known as papal and pagan fields. Italy and Mexico are the principal papal fields; China, Japan and Africa are the principle pagan fields.

We have now in Foreign fields 86 missionaries and 103 native helpers. These workers baptized last year 571. The Lord is inviting us to possess these lands by opening the gates and greatly blessing our labors.

The Home Mission Board controls all of the general missionary work in our own land. It has missionaries in almost every State in the South, and the territories. Its work is confined mostly to the Indians, negroes and the foreign element which is flooding our country yearly, and if we do not Christianize these, they will eventually foreignize us. By consent, Cuba is given to the Home Board. The isle of Cuba is peculiarly a Baptist field. God invited us there by sending one of Cuba's strongest men over to us to be converted and then called him to the ministry to preach to his fellow-countrymen. I refer to Bro. Diaz.

This Board had last year 407 missionaries in the field, and they baptized last year 5,349. The State Board supervises all State Missions in our own State. The design of this Board has been very much misunderstood by a good many of our brethren. It has been the instrument in God's hands in doing a great deal of work which perhaps would not have been done otherwise.

The Board has not been able to supply all of the destitutions at once, therefore, the unsupplied sometimes complain. It is able only as the churches make it able. We are glad to say the Board is more able to-day to supply all the destitutions than ever before.

Brethren, have we done our duty in this great work of Missions?

Our duty is plainly laid down in the command, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." We too often excuse ourselves from giving to the general work of Missions by crying out home work. Have we done even what we could for the support of the gospel in our midst?

In foreign fields among pagan and papist, the churches there averaged last year $55.40 each to the Mission fund. This fact is enough to bring the blush of shame to the cheeks of many of our churches. Raised in a gospel land, trained up in the light of the Bible.

Brethren, can we ever expect to hear the "well done good and faithful servant," and remain so negligent on this great subject. Let us come up to the full measure of our duty on this subject.

J. W. COLLINS, Chm'n,
T. S. SHUFORD,
T. W. WHITE,
Committee.

SUBJECTS FOR REPORTS AND COMMITTEES TO WRITE ON THEM.

Home and Foreign Missions—Thos. W. White.
Sunday Schools—H. B. Hill.
State Missions—H. A. Ferguson.
Publications—T. R. Overby.
Prohibition—H. A. Ferguson.
Ministerial Education—J. M. Christman.
Mississippi College—J. W. Collins.
Duty of Pastors to Their Churches—T. S. Shuford.
Duty of Churches to Their Pastors—R. F. Christman.
Woman's Work—Thos. W. White.
Associational Mission Board—J. W. Collins, H. A. Ferguson, T. S. Shuford.

CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE CHURCHES SINCE LAST REPORT.

FRIENDSHIP CHURCH.

Amount for church purposes and missions . . . . . $ 21 00

BELEN CHURCH.

For Missions	4 00

LULA CHURCH.

First two quarters	8 00

BAPTIST CHURCH AT LYON.

Third and Fourth quarters of 1890 State Board	20 25
First and Second quarters of 1891, State Board	23 75
To visiting brethren for services	60 60
To pastor's salary for three quarters	225 00
To incidentals	30 70
To Sunday School purposes	20 00
To endowment Mississippi College	100 00
Total	$485 30

REFUGE CHURCH.

To Ministerial Education	27 50
To State Missions	3 75
To repairs on building	25 00
To pastor's salary	100 00
To Sunday School purposes	8 00
Total	$164 25

NEW HOPE.

To church purposes and Missions	$ 21 40

ENON CHURCH.

To State Missions	$ 7 00
To pastor's salary	150 00

OAK RIDGE.

To pastor's salary and current expenses	$ 33 25
To Missions	15 25
Total	$ 48 50

E. B. FULLER, FRIARS POINT.

Sent cash to this Association for State Missions	$15 00

LADIE'S AID SOCIETY, FRIARS POINT CHURCH.

Report funds on hand	$ 16 00
A quilt valued at	15 00
To Ministerial Education	12 00
Cash sent to the Association, State Missions	5 00
Total	$48 00
Grand total	$972 45

TREASURERS REPORT

Amount on hand for all purposes, as shown by minutes of 1890	$69 35	
By cash for printing minutes		$26 40
By cash paid J. T. Christian for Ministerial Education		12 80
By balance		30 15
	$69 35	$69 35
To balance on hand 1891	$30 15	
To amount received from churches for minutes	27 00	
To amount received from churches for Missions	2 25	
To amount received from E. B. Fuller, Friars Point, Miss	15 00	
To amount received from Ladies' Aid Society, Friars Point, Miss	5 00	
To cash subscription for Ministerial Education	16 75	
To hat collection Sunday for Missions	24 70	
By cash paid J. T. Christian for State		$46 95
By amount allowed Clerk for services		10 00
By amount allowed for minutes		27 00
By balance		20 15
	$120 85	120 85
To balance on hand	20 15	

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

RECEIVED FROM THE CHURCHES.

For minutes	$27 00
Bethel church, Missions	1 00
First Baptist church of Bolivar	1 25
E. B. Fuller, Friars Point, Missions	15 00
Ladies' Aid Society, Friars Point church, Missions	5 00
Ministerial Education, cash subscription	16 75
	$66 00
By amount turned over to Treasurer	$66 00

Respectfully submitted,

T. R. OVERBY, Chairman.

On motion, the above report was adopted.

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. This Association shall be called the SUNFLOWER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Art. 2. It shall be composed of persons who have been duly elected delegates by the respective churches belonging to this union.

Art. 3. The delegates representing the different churches shall, at the opening of the Association, present the letters specifying their appointment, and also showing the number baptized, received by letter, dismissed, excluded, restored and dead, during the year, together with the whole number in fellowship.

Art. 4. Every church belonging to this body will be entitled to five delegates until they number one hundred members, and one for each fifty above that number.

Art. 5. Churches of this union failing to represent themselves at one Association, will be expected to state the reason of their failure at the next, and if any church fail for three successive meetings, the Association may consider such a church as dropped from its number, or shall have power to send a committee to inquire into its state, or proceed as the Association may deem most advisable.

Art. 6. New churches may be admitted into this union by signifying their wish by letter and delegates, provided they be deemed orthodox, and are willing to walk in fellowship with us.

Art. 7. The Association shall have a Moderator and Clerk, who shall be chosen at each annual meeting, so soon as letters from the churches are read, and members' names enrolled; provided, however, that nothing in this article be construed as to prohibit churches petitioning for union with us from voting by their delegates for Moderator and Clerk.

Art. 8. This Association shall have no power to adopt rules that shall at any time infringe upon the independence and rights of churches; it shall, however, be at liberty to advise churches belonging to it, or it may withdraw from such churches as are known to walk disorderly.

Art. 9. This Association shall have a fund for its expenses, and the churches shall be at liberty to send up such funds as they may think proper, either for foreign or domestic missions, for the Bible or any other benevolent institution, and the Association appoint one or more to take charge of the same, and forward them as they may be designated, and report to the next Association.

Art. 10. Any church of this union having a difficulty that she cannot settle may call help from other churches, or may present the case to this body for advice, such cases must be presented in the letter of correspondence, stating the reasons why it has not, or could not be decided by the church.

Art. 11. If any church shall have a difficulty with a sister church, we recommend said church to take the gospel steps as directed in Matthew 18. and no difficulty will be entertained by the Association until such steps are taken.

Art. 12. When churches of this union have members supposed to possess ministerial gifts, we recommend them to call to their aid, from two or more churches, the ministers, and such other members as the churches may deem most suitable to examine the individuals, and if thought advisable, to authorize such member or members to preach the gospel, which shall be reported to the Association and entered on the minutes.

Art. 13. Any church having a gift she deems worthy of ordination, shall call a presbytery of ministers from sister churches to officiate in the work; and all the presbyteries in the ordination of ministers and deacons, or in constituting churches, shall be governed by the Abstract of Principles of this Association.

Art. 14. The Association may correspond by letter and delegates with the Baptist Convention of this State, and with such Associations as she may deem most conductive to the general interests of Zion.

Art. 15. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the session rises. No Association shall adjourn, unless in extraordinary cases, until it has finished all its business.

RULES OF DECORUM.

Art. 1. The Association shall be opened with prayer.

Art. 2. The Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by the members present by private ballot.

Art. 3. The Moderator shall be considered the judge of order, but any member not satisfied with his decision may appeal, provided the appeal be made on the same day, but at no subsequent time.

Art. 4. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privileges of speaking as other members, but not to vote unless his vote is necessary to decide the question. If he rise to speak, he shall call on some brother to take the chair.

Art. 5. All questions brought before the Association shall be introduced by motion, and if seconded, shall be open for discussion, unless withdrawn by the mover or his second. When a subject has been taken up and a reasonable time allowed for discussion, the Moderator shall take the question by yeas and nays, and if a call for a division be made it shall be decided by the members rising.

Art. 6. Any member wishing to speak shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator. Only one member shall speak at the same time, and while speaking shall not be interrupted, unless he depart from the subject or make personal reflections.

Art. 7. No person shall speak more than once upon any subject until all who wish to speak have had an opportunity, nor more than twice upon any subject without permission.

Art. 8. Every subject introduced for discussion shall be first decided before another shall be offered, unless it shall be laid over by motion, with the consent of the mover and the Association.

Art. 9. The Association shall in all cases be governed by a majority of the members present, (except in the reception of churches, then a unanimous vote shall be required. "But in no case shall one member or church prevent the reception of a church without a sufficient cause is shown, which shall be determined by a majority.")

Art. 10. The names of members shall be called when ever the Association may direct, and the absentees marked. Any member wishing to retire shall obtain permission of the Moderator.

Art. 11. The appellation of brother shall be used by members in addressing each other.

Art. 12. Any member violating these rules shall be subject to reproval by the Moderator, but only on the day the breach shall have been committed.

Art. 13. Amendments or alterations may be made to these rules when a majority may deem it necessary.

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CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	POST-OFFICE.	
Lyon	Thos. W. White	Lyon, Miss	J.
Oak Ridge	J. W. Collins	Lyon, Miss	
Bethel	G. W. Holowell	Wallace, Panola Co. Miss.	W
Mound Bayou	T. R. Overby, Mod. pro tem.		S.
First Baptist ch Bolivar Co.	No Pastor.*		
Refuge	H. D. Whi e	Vicksburg, Miss.	W
Friars Point	No Pastor.*		J.
Harmony	Not represented.		J.
Lula	J. W. Collins	Lula, Miss	M
Belen	J. W. Collins	Lyon, Miss.	H
Friendship	B. B. Milam.	Merigold, Miss.	Ja
New Hope	B. B. Milam.	Merigold, Miss.	J.
Enon (new church)	J. W. Collins	Lyon, Miss.	J.

6

*W. L. Slack has recently resigned the above two chur churches, and has been called

Notice to the Clerks—Be certain to give your Post-office, as well as the Post-office of y

CHURCH CLERKS.	POST-OFFICE.
y	Lyon, Miss
	Huschpukena, Miss.
ry.	
last year; W. J. Griffin P. T.	
nson	Beulah, Miss.
	Friars Point, Miss.
	Busby, Miss.
	Lula, Miss.
Van Eaton	Belen, Miss.
son	Merigold, Miss.
le	Clarksdale, Miss.
ngs	Enon, Miss.
ing	

re of a church in Memphis.

or.

Art. 12. Any member violating these rules shall be subject to reproval by the Moderator, but only on the day the breach shall have been committed.

Art. 13. Amendments or alterations may be made to these rules when a majority may deem it necessary.

ISTICAL TABLE.

By Exclusion.	By Deaths.	By Erasure.	No. of Males.	No. of Females.	Total Membership.	Am't. for Minutes.	Am't. for Missions.	Ordained Ministers.	PRAYER-MEETINGS AND SABBATH SCHOOLS.
		1	12	18	30	$ 2 00		1	Prayer M'ings Wed'y night, regular S S.
	1				37	5 60			
			16	15	32	2 00	$ 1 00		Prayer Meeting every Sabbath.
			12	8	20	2 50			
	1				8	2 00	1 25		Regular Prayer Mt'ng & Sabbath School.
2	1				39	2 00			
2			5	18	21	2 50			Regular Sabbath School.
					22				
			5	15		2 00			
					20	2 00			
2	3				12	1 00			
	1				18	1 00			
1		17			75	4 00		1	
7	7	18	50	75	334	$27 00	$2 25	2	

as stated above.

CHURCHES.	Days of Meeting.	Sabbath.
Lyon	1st -3.	
Oak Ridge	1st.	
Bethel	3rd	
Mound Bayou		
First Baptist Ch., Bolivar Co.		
Refuge	1st.	
Friars Point		
*Harmony		
Lula	4th.	
Belen	2nd.	
Friendship	2nd.	
New Hope		
Enon	2rd.	
Total		33

*Not represented—membership last

By Exclusion.